Surplus quantity of buffer stock of foodgr ns

†512. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present there is surplus quantity of various foodgrains in the country than required for their buffer stock;

(b) if so, the names of the foodgrains alongwith their surplus quantity in buffer stock;

(c) whether Government have decided to sell the surplus quantity of the same;

(d) if so, the name of the foodgrains for which decision has been taken to sale and its quantity; and

(e) the quantity fixed for sale in the International market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The stock of rice and wheat in the central pool as on 1-7-2000 as compared with buffer stock norms is as under:—

(Figs. in lakh tonnes)

Commodity	Stocks	Buffer norms	Surplus Stock
Rice	144.90	100.00	44.90
Wheat	277.57	143.00	134.57

(c) and (d) There is an ongoing Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) under which any buyer can purchase wheat from FCI at the rate of Rs. 900/- per quintal, subject to the condition that the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

indented quantity is not less than 10 tonne. Additionally Government have decided to dispose of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) from Punjab only at the following rates:—

Month	Rate per qtl
July, 2000	Rs. 700/- per qtl.
Aug., 2000	Rs. 750/- per qtl.
Sep., 2000	Rs. 800/- per qtl.

(e) The Government have decided to explore possibilities of commodity loan of wheat to SAARC countries or other countries, as also barter trade of wheat with those countries which could supply us other commodities in exchange of wheat at prices at which they are importing wheat from other countries. It has also been decided to allow export of wheat on Government to Government account subject to suitable floor price. However, no specific quantity of wheat has been fixed for export.

Auction of wheat in the domestic market

513. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to auction upto 5 million tonnes of wheat in the domestic market to reduce stocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the off-take of foodgrains for the public distribution system has decreased after the selling prices of foodgrains were increased recently which is being one of the reasons for accumulated stock; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION